

# Update from YHMA



Yukon Historical &  
Museums Association



heritage  
yukon  
Step in to our story

# Who is YHMA?

**Established in 1977**, the Yukon Historical & Museums Association is a member-based organization that works to inspire and share a passion for Yukon heritage.

YHMA acts as the hub of the Yukon heritage community, serving to connect a diverse sector of organizations and individuals (including private businesses, non-profit organizations and governments) engaged in the protection, conservation and interpretation of the Territory's heritage, which includes institutions, stories, objects and places.

We build a learning environment for history and culture and the development of skills and best practices.

We share knowledge with the Yukon heritage community and support each other in protection and preservation projects.

Most of our activities are collaborations and partnerships. Many of our events and programs honour those in the heritage sector that are dedicated to our vision.

Our **Membership** includes a mix of heritage organizations and individuals with an interest in heritage, from across the Territory.

**Programs** include initiatives focused on developing the capacity of and supporting the Yukon heritage sector (such as the Heritage Training Fund and Joint Marketing program) and public activities to raise awareness of and inspire a passion for Yukon heritage (Territorial Heritage Fair, Doors Open/Culture Days)

# 2014-15 What We've Been Up To

## **Fostered innovative partnerships with Yukon heritage institutions**

YHMA worked with six heritage institutions throughout the Territory to pilot innovative partnerships that harnessed creativity and collaboration to address capacity and sustainability issues through joint internships and training workshops

## **Strengthened the Yukon heritage community network**

Through new communication tools like our website and E-bulletin, YHMA laid the groundwork of a strong network that connects the Yukon heritage community with Yukoners, visitors, and the global heritage community.

## **Provided over \$30,000 in support through the Heritage Training Fund**

Long-term capacity of the Yukon heritage sector supported through 45 training opportunities

## **Supported over 20 heritage projects undertaken across the Territory**

From work to support a World Heritage Site nomination, to innovative museum exhibits, YHMA continues to actively support initiatives to protect, conserve and celebrate Yukon heritage.

## **Coordinated marketing through the Joint Marketing Program**

This initiative provides marketing support and capacity development, and encourages collaboration among participating Yukon heritage organizations.

**Recognized Achievement through the 2014 YHMA Heritage Awards** The Friends of the Ross River Bridge Society, Casey McLaughlin, the Watson Lake Historical Society and Leo and Marc Martel were recognized for their exceptional contributions



# 2015-16 Focus

## Continue adopting sustainable organizational practices

- Internal review of YHMA programs and services
- Start identifying goals for performance and financial stability/diversification
- Develop operational procedures and policies
- Board development
- Continue strengthening program delivery

## Develop YHMA as 'hub' for heritage community

- Encourage use of YHMA communication tools (eg website, e-bulletin, newsletter)
- Symposium as annual gathering for Yukon heritage community
- Donnenworth House as physical hub—place to check in, for meetings, etc
- Active Territory-wide: community visits, Board meetings in the communities, etc
- Active in Canada: strategic meetings with NWT, national heritage organizations, etc

## Undertake planning

- North and WWI Conference (May 2016)
- Building maintenance strategy for LePage Park
- Review of Passport Program
- Update and reprint of *Kohklux Map* booklet
- Yukon Cultural Laborforce Study Steering Committee
- YHMA 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary/ Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> in 2017



# Fostering a Pan-Northern Heritage Network | Trip to Yellowknife

YHMA representatives attended the recent business and tourism mission to Yellowknife, organized by the YG Department of Tourism & Culture and the City of Whitehorse. They were joined by several representatives of the Yukon heritage sector.

YHMA met with colleagues at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) to tour the facility and discuss shared challenges and opportunities to safeguarding, conserving and interpreting heritage in the Canadian north.

## Goals of trip:

- Learn more about the NWT heritage sector and current trends, challenges and opportunities to conservation, interpretation and management of their heritage resources
- To share news and events from the Yukon
- Strengthen the communication network between Yukon and NWT heritage sectors to better encourage collaboration and the sharing of news and best practices
- Explore benefit of developing a pan-northern heritage network
- Strengthen relationships between heritage and tourism stakeholders participating in this mission



# Fostering a Pan-Northern Heritage Network | Trip to Yellowknife

## Findings:

- NWT heritage sector more centralized than Yukon, however similar challenges of supporting community-based activities, recruit/retain qualified heritage labour, archival storage limitations, etc
- Our heritage and stories extend beyond borders: interest on both sides to building a stronger network between heritage practitioners in the north, including the three Canadian territories and Alaska
- Commitment to more communication: use of YHMA e-bulletin, conference attendance, etc



# Upcoming YHMA Events

- **February 2016** | Yukon Heritage Awards & Heritage Day activities
- **May 2016** | Yukon/Stikine Regional Heritage Fair
- **May 2016** | North and WWI Conference
- **August 2016** | third annual YHMA Charity Croquet Tournament
- **September 2016** | Culture Days & Doors Open Yukon
- **October 2016** | Yukon Heritage Symposium



# Thank You!



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